

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Division of Biographic Information

WASH. Yearling Krishna Krishna

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Personal data: Born May 3, 1897 at Calicut, Province of Malabar, India.

Education: Tellicherry and Calicut; graduated from University of Madras, B.A.; B.Sc. (Econ.); University of London, M.A., M. Sc. (Econ.). Studied under Prof. Harold Laski at London School of Economics. Barrister-at-Law.

Language: Perfect English; probably various Indian dialects.

Publications: Planned and was the first editor of Pakistan Books; editor, 20th Century Library (Bedford Road); various pamphlets and those published by the India League.

Comments:

- 1918-1924 Boy Scout Commissioner, Madras and Cochin State.
1919-1922 Adyar Lecturer, National University.
1924 First went to England; taught English History for a year at St. Christopher's Preparatory School, Letenworth.
1928 One of the organisers of the India League.
1929-1947 Secretary, India League.
1934-1947 Member, borough council, St. Pancras, London.
1936 Indian National Congress delegate to the International Peace Conference, Brussels.
1936-1947 Represented India at various international congresses on behalf of the Indian National Congress for Jawaharlal Nehru.
1939-1942 Chairman, Arts Council, St. Pancras, London;
Labour Party Parliamentary candidate, Dundee, Scotland.
1946 Private Secretary to Dr. George Sydney Arundale, President of the Theosophical Society and of the India League; Visited India for three months, conferred with Nehru and Gandhi;
Alternate member, Indian delegation, UN General Assembly, second part of the first session, New York, October.
1946-1947 Special Representative, Government of India, London.
1947-1952 High Commissioner for India to the United Kingdom, London.
1949-1952 Indian Ambassador to Eire.
1950 Member, Indian delegation, Commonwealth Foreign Ministers Conference, Colombo.
1952 Member, Indian delegation, UN General Assembly, September.
1953 Member, Indian delegation, UN General Assembly, seventh session, New York, September;
Member, Council of States, Parliament of India.

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MEMOR. Vengalil Krishnan Krishna (continued)

INDIA

Remarks:

V.K. Krishna Menon will again be a member of the Indian delegation to the UN General Assembly which will convene in September 1953. At the UN General Assembly meeting in 1952 Krishna Menon delivered to the Political and Security Committee of the Assembly a text of a resolution calling for repatriation of all prisoners of war in Korea after the conclusion of an armistice by a special commission consisting of Poland, Czechoslovakia, Sweden and Switzerland. It is noted that the Soviet Foreign Minister, Andrei Y. Vishinsky, who rejected the proposal while viciously attacking the Indian Government and people as "dreamers or worse", made an exception of Krishna Menon, whom he described as an "honest man".

Notwithstanding the fact that his resolution was rejected by the Soviet and Chinese Governments, Menon, in a public statement a few days later blamed the breakdown not on the communist powers but on the United States, because it had previously attempted to advance to the Yalu River. He also stated that he considered Poland and Czechoslovakia whom he had sponsored in his resolution as "neutrals", to be fully independent countries. Menon made himself very unpopular at this UN session and argued vociferously with Mr. Pandit, the leader of the Indian delegation.

A close friend and a confidant of Pandit Nehru, V.K. Krishna Menon, long known for his pro-Soviet sympathies, has for several years been a definite "fellow traveller". In this connection the statements of some of his countrymen are worthy of note. K.P.S. Menon, Foreign Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations, formerly Agent General to China and later the first Indian Ambassador there, who served with V. K. Krishna Menon as a member of the Indian delegation to the UN in October 1946, reported to Nehru that, "if Krishna Menon had had his way India would have been reduced to the position of a Soviet satellite". The two Menons quarrelled furiously at the Conference table. Krishna Menon became almost embarrassing and contributed considerably towards creating an impression that the Indian delegation had departed from their policy of neutrality to throw their weight on the side of Russia. Another member of the Indian delegation, Justice Mahomed Ali Currim Chagla, made a special trip to Delhi to report the issue to Nehru, but the latter was not interested.

A controlled American source recently reported that Minocher Ruston Masini, presently the Public Relations Director of Tata & Sons and a member of the Indian Parliament who was formerly Ambassador to Brazil, declared that Krishna Menon was a "Communist agent". When some doubt was expressed regarding this positive accusation and when asked if he did not think "Communist fellow traveler", was a more fitting appellation, Masini is reported to have replied that he was fully aware of the distinction between "Communist fellow traveler and "Communist agent" and there was no doubt in his mind that Menon is a "Communist agent".

It is reported that Sir Stafford Cripps in 1947 sent a special message to Nehru requesting that Krishna Menon should not be appointed as India's High Commissioner in London, following the completion of the negotiations for the transfer of power, as both His Majesty's Government and the Labor Party did not approve of Menon's Communist associations. Lord Louis Mountbatten, however, intervened and wrote a letter to Attlee recommending that he should not make it an issue and thereby antagonize Pandit Nehru. The British cabinet thereupon decided not to press the matter further, and Krishna Menon was accredited as High Commissioner.

MEMOR. Venkatesh Krishnan Krishna (continued)

INDIA

In September 1948, both the Acting United Kingdom High Commissioner to India and Eric Ritter, able correspondent for The Times of London in India, commented on the fact that Krishna Menon is not trusted by the British Government because it is felt that anything told him in confidence may leak, with a strong probability that the leak might extend to the Soviet Embassy, Krishna Menon himself is not unaware of this for he is reported to have said that while he is treated with the greatest courtesy by British officials, they "never tell me anything". 6/

Bridget Funnari, secretary both to Krishna Menon and to the India League which he helped organize in 1928, is reported to be a known Communist sympathizer and is believed to act as the contact between him and the Party. 1/

Apparently the only reason Krishna Menon is being retained in his post is because of his intimate relationship with Pandit Nehru, who is all too prone to disregard any consideration other than his personal feelings in appointing India's representatives abroad. Nehru told Mollath Kadingi Velloodi, at present the Secretary of the Ministry of States, upon his return to India, that he deeply resented the remarks concerning Krishna Menon which Velloodi had expressed in a letter to Nehru some months earlier. In this letter, written while Velloodi was the Indian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom he stated that, although Krishna Menon had rendered a great service to the Indian national cause during his long residence in England, he had succeeded in impressing the dislike not only of the majority of the British, including the Labor Government, but also of the Indian community in London. 2/

In September 1950 it was reported that Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai, Secretary General of the Ministry of External Affairs desires to retire shortly and that Krishna Menon is working to be appointed as his successor. It was stated that Krishna Menon's candidacy was strongly supported by Devadas Gandhi, fourth son of the Mahatma and son-in-law of Chakravarti Rajagopalachari, former Governor General 1/ and now a cabinet minister without portfolio, 5/ and a Director of the Hindustan Times. Devadas Gandhi, the managing editor of the newspaper, has long desired Krishna Menon's present post of High Commissioner in London for himself, and therefore is working for Menon's transfer. However, the American Embassy in New Delhi was informed by private sources that while there appeared to be some possibility in the latter part of August 1950 that the above rumored changes might occur, by September 5 they were considered unlikely. These sources were of the opinion that K.P.S. Menon, the present Foreign Secretary, would be the most probable successor to Sir Girja. 9/

Krishna Menon's views on international affairs have often had a pro-Soviet leaning. It is alleged that he interpreted the coup d'etat in Hungary in 1947 as an act against Anglo-American intrigue. Upon the death of Jan Masaryk in Czechoslovakia in March 1948, he hastened to send a special message advising the Government of India that it was nothing serious and that only a few Anglo-American spies had been eliminated. 1/

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MEMO. Yousufi Krishna Krishna (continued)

INDIA

While in Bombay in the latter part of 1947, Krishna Menon openly denounced the United States for its "aggressive pro-Pakistan propaganda campaign" which he claimed was the only reason for Pakistan's present survival and doubtful future success. He stated that if the Kashmir issue were brought before the United Nations, Russian vetoes would follow. During this visit to Bombay, Menon was received by Mulk Raj Anand, intellectual Communist and an editor of a paper in Nagpur. 10/

As Nehru's personal representative in Europe, Krishna Menon visited a number of European countries from 1946 to 1948 in order to hold informal exploratory conversations with a view to the establishment of diplomatic relations. 11/ This assignment included conversations with Molotov in the fall of 1946 which led to the establishment of Indian-Soviet diplomatic relations. 12/

Krishna Menon is a facile writer and a brilliant orator of the rabble-rousing type. 13/ A lean individual of medium height, Krishna Menon has an emaciated face with a large nose and cold, calculating eyes. His sunken cheeks accentuate his high cheek bones.

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August 25, 1953

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| 1/ India, weekly published in Bombay, September 3, 1950. | UNCLASSIFIED |
| reported in D-540, New Delhi, September 8, 1950. | CONFIDENTIAL |
| 2/ D-185, Seoul, June 25, 1948. | CONFIDENTIAL |
| 3/ Department of State, RI files, August 11, 1950. | SECRET |
| 4/ D-252, Bombay, September 26, 1950. | UNCLASSIFIED |
| 5/ D-1237, Rio de Janeiro, November 10, 1948. | UNCLASSIFIED |
| 6/ A-595, New Delhi, September 25, 1948. | CONFIDENTIAL |
| 7/ A-267, New Delhi, June 4, 1948. | CONFIDENTIAL |
| 8/ T-145, New Delhi, July 20, 1950. | UNCLASSIFIED |
| 9/ D-540, New Delhi, September 8, 1950. | CONFIDENTIAL |
| 10/ Department of State, RI files, January 3, 1948. | SECRET |
| 11/ Indian Home Service Service FBIS, November 30, 1946. | RESTRICTED |
| 12/ T-999, New Delhi, October 1, 1946. | CONFIDENTIAL |
| 13/ Department of State memorandum concerning Near East Asia Countries in the General Assembly of the UN -- October 23 to December 16, 1946. | SECRET |

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